

ASOS PROGRAM MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

RECORD APMC 02-1 (FINAL)

February 12, 2002

1. CONVENED - 9:00 AM

A meeting of the ASOS Program Management Committee (APMC) was convened by Chair Douglas Hess on February 12, 2002. The meeting was in Room 16246, Silver Spring Metro Center Building 2 (SSMC-2), National Weather Service Headquarters, Silver Spring, MD.

Members participating:

Chair	- Douglas Hess
DOC	- Joe Facundo (for Rainer Dombrowsky)
	- Paul Harris (for Fred Toepfer)
DOD	- Col. Nathan Feldman, USAF
	- Tim Kimbrell (for LCDR Thomas Millman, USN)
DOT	- Ray Weimer, Jr. (for Deborah Johnson)
	- David Whatley
ASOS PI	- Richard Ahlberg, Jr.
Ex. Sec.	- Lewis Kozlosky

Advisors and/or guests included: John Bradley, Rich Bunevitch, Rob Ericson, Carol Hagey, Peggy Hoch, Steve Jenne, Anthony Leonardo, David Mannarano, Bryan Moore, Susan Reiley, Suzanne Skelley, John Van Kuren, and Al Wissman from DOC; Bob Beatty, Ralph Buck, Ginny Dillon, JoAnn Ford, Jerry Kranz, and Giles Strickler from DOT; and Ed Heusinger, Jr. from DOD.

2. OPENING REMARKS AND PREVIOUS MINUTES

Mr. Hess recognized the members and alternates in attendance as indicated above.

The August 23, 2001, Corrected Minutes were approved without comment.

3. ASOS CCB REPORT AND CHARTER REVIEW

The ASOS Configuration Control Board (ACCB) Request for Change (RC) Status Report was provided to members in their folders. Mr. Ahlberg pointed out that the report distributed at the meeting was a revision of the previously e-mailed version. He indicated two items were pending APMC votes: S01141, Processor Upgrade (vote needed from FAA AOP); and S01143, Dewpoint Sensor Replacement (vote needed from Navy). Mr. Kimbrell stated he would follow up to obtain the Navy vote.

Mr. Ahlberg stated that the ACCB Charter was previously e-mailed to members for review, and there were copies in the folders. Mr. Kozlosky requested that if members concur, they could sign signature copies of the ACCB and ASOS Software Working Group (ASWG) Charters distributed at the meeting. Both Charters received signatures of all members in attendance. Three more signatures were needed for ratification of each Charter. Mr. Kozlosky will coordinate with the remaining members for the final signatures.

4. NWS PROGRAM STATUS BRIEFING

Mr. Ahlberg summarized the priorities of the Program Improvement (PI) projects have been adjusted to accommodate the latest funding and resource allocations. He emphasized the sensor projects are dependent on the implementation of the Processor Upgrade.

ACU Processor Upgrade: The following issues were highlighted:

- the System Test was completed in September 2001;
- eighteen of thirty six planned sites in the Operational Acceptance Test have been installed
- about 12 ADAS sites have communication problems that may affect the testing, the problems are being investigated;

- production buy of 650 boards was executed in September 2001;

Col. Feldman indicated that the Air Force would like to participate, and would benefit from FY 2003 funding flexibility. There would be a quantity pricing advantage if the Air Force and Navy could purchase the boards with the FAA. Mr. Ahlberg said he would provide a cost savings estimate to the Air Force and Navy for information.

Dew Point Sensor Replacement: The Dew Point Sensor Replacement testing is going well. Eight of twenty planned sites in the OAT have been installed. Sites operate with the old and new sensors in place. Ambient temperature will be obtained from the old sensor, and dewpoint data from the new sensor. Dewpoint data from the old sensor will be logged, but will not be part of the official observation. A plan for implementing new ambient temperature sensors has not yet been developed.

Ice Free Wind Sensor: Two models are being evaluated. Model NWS425 (125 Kt. sensor) has passed testing to date. Model NWS427 (175 Kt. sensor) has not passed at speeds or temperature extremes. Testing and evaluation is continuing. The April to July testing will include blowing rain conditions, and data will continue to be collected and evaluated during deployment. Mr. Kimbrell suggested that the Navy test bed in Charleston, SC, might be available for the testing.

Some sites will have wind gust reporting of five seconds versus three seconds until deployment of the Ice Free Wind Sensor is complete. Concern was expressed that the difference in wind gust reporting may impact the aviation community.

The following Action was assigned:

02-1.1 - Rainer Dombrowsky and JoAnn Ford: Produce and distribute a User Notification Plan to accommodate the three-second versus five-second wind gust averaging resulting from the deployment of the Ice Free Wind Sensor.

All Weather Precipitation Accumulation Gauge (AWPAG):

Mr. Ahlberg stated the AWPAG is the NWS top priority for product improvement. Four pre-production gauges were delivered and installed in January 2002. The critical design review is scheduled for February 20-21, 2002.

Mr. Ahlberg concluded his presentation with a summary of deployment schedules for each PI initiative.

5. ASOS SOFTWARE WORKING GROUP (ASWG) ACTIVITIES

Mr. Bradley presented the ASWG report for Mr. Dombrowsky. The ASWG plans to define a new load every six months. Version 2.63, which includes the FAA's Weather System Processor changes, has been developed. Mr. Bradley summarized the status of pending loads: V2.62I Request for Change (RC) is currently in review and is being evaluated at 23 sites; V2.78 and V2.79 RCs are being developed, and will be merged to create V2.8. The V2.8 and V3.0 RCs are yet to be submitted for evaluation and APMC decision.

Two RCs were rescinded by the ACCB based on an ASWG recommendation. Another RC, Volcanic Eruption Reporting, is undergoing interagency research.

Mr. Hess remarked that a development system is needed for NWS Headquarters. Mr. Bunevitch added the development system is needed so software can be developed on the new processor. The time frame for the acquisition of a development system has not been determined.

Mr. Facundo asked how software build schedules will be documented. Mr. Kozlosky replied that the ASWG creates software build RCs which include development schedules. He added that they are submitted for APMC consideration in accordance with the ASWG Charter.

Mr. Kozlosky pointed out that the ASWG Charter is being circulated around the table with the ACCB Charter for APMC member signatures. Signatures from members not in attendance will be obtained via post-meeting coordination. The ratified Charters will be distributed to associated organizations.

6. ASOS INTERNET CONNECTIVITY

Mr. Wissman summarized the preliminary RC for development of the Internet interface to ASOS and reported that it had been

approved. There are five sites designated for testing. Mr. Wissman summarized how the interface will be designed. Mr. Facundo asked how the data will be transmitted from ASOS. Mr. Wissman replied that it will be sent via OID port 4 or 5.

This system will also streamline the acquisition of other weather data, including the Co-operative observer data and AWOS, which are currently being collected via telephone and mail.

Mr. Harris asked how security is being addressed. Mr. Wissman replied that there will be firewalls in place between the NWS network and the Internet.

Mr. Wissman summarized the development plan:

- RC S01191 Approved for 5 test sites, 8/01;
- contract for software development awarded to Prism, 8/01;
- design reviews completed, 12/01;
- Factory Acceptance Test planned, 4/02;
- 5-Site Demonstration, 5/02
- implementation RC to be submitted prior to next APMC.

Questions were raised concerning communications and recurring costs. Mr. Wissman indicated communication costs will not be substantially greater than they are presently, and recurring costs will be minimal.

Funding will be reflected in the implementation RC, and the ASWG will determine which software load will be used for deployment.

7. ASOS OPERATIONS

Mr. Wissman presented the status of ASOS monthly operations and maintenance for 2001. System Availability, Mean Time Between Failure, Mean Time Sensor Recovery (MTSR), Maintenance Restoration statistics, Trouble Ticket data, and Percentage of Missed Observations were reported.

System Availability for the Altimeter parameter was not met for some months due to one site with aberrant winds (Port Glacier), two sites with no power (AGX and PDL), and flooding of one site (St. Paul). Without these specific

problems, the overall Availability specification would have been met.

Mr. Facundo suggested that when the new Dewpoint Sensor is deployed, it is reported separately. Mr. Wissman agreed.

Trouble tickets not met equaled about six per month, which is equivalent to 2.6% of all trouble tickets. 53% of trouble tickets closed were priority 1; 2% were priority 2; and 45% were priority 3. Mr. Wissman stated the Temperature/Dewpoint Sensor resulted in the most trouble tickets (about 6.3% of total).

8. ACTION ITEMS

APMC 02-1.1: Rainer Dombrowsky and JoAnn Ford: Produce and distribute a User Notification Plan to accommodate the three-second versus five-second wind gust averaging resulting from the deployment of the Ice Free Wind Sensor.
STATUS: NEW 2/12/02

APMC 01-1.4: The Secretariat will notify the Chair and Secretariat of the ASOS CCB and ASOS Software Working Group of this development and request the Charters for each be (re)written for review and approval by the ASOS PMC.
STATUS: NEW 2/13/01

3/27/01: Mr. Gillespie notified Mr. Tim Ross (ASWG) and Mr. Lewis Kozlosky (ACCB) by e-mail, of the need to submit charters for approval by the APMC. Mr. Gillespie was awaiting finalization of the APMC membership in order to publish the signature page for incorporation into their charters. **5/8/01:** Work in progress.

8/23/01: The APMC membership signature page was distributed for inclusion with the charters. Recent changes to the membership dictate the need to update the signature page. The Secretariat will generate the updated signature page for inclusion in the charters, and distribute the charters for review and signature. **CLOSED 2/12/02:** Mr. Kozlosky summarized that the revised ACCB and ASWG Charters were provided to members for signature. He added that he would obtain the remaining signatures and distribute the ratified Charters to all stakeholders.

9. OTHER BUSINESS

Mr. Kozlosky suggested that the minutes be recorded in a more succinct format. He added that supporting information can be posted to the Change Management web site as necessary. The APMC members concurred with the suggestion.

10. NEXT MEETING

<p>The proposed date for the next APMC is Tuesday, July 16, 2002, to tentatively correspond with the NPMC schedule. Time and location: 9:00 to 1:00, Room 12246 in Building SSMC2, National Weather Service Headquarters, Silver Spring, MD.</p>
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11. EXECUTIVE SESSION

The Chair offered members the opportunity to convene an Executive Session. The committee members unanimously declined.

12. ADJOURN - The APMC adjourned at 11:20 a.m.